

cel



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/689,855   | 10/22/2003  | Masanobu Shigeta     | 21994-00064-US      | 4217             |
| 30678  | 7590        | 09/07/2005           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP<br>SUITE 800<br>1990 M STREET NW<br>WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3425 |             |                      | QI, ZHI QIANG       |                  |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 2871                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                      |                                       |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/689,855 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>SHIGETA ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Mike Qi           | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2871               |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,426,786 B1 (Lu et al) in view of US 5,030,322 (Shimada et al).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Lu discloses (col.4, line 19 – col.5, line 58; col.1, line 24 – col.2, line 15; Figs.1-3) that a method of forming an alignment layer of a liquid crystal display cell comprising:

- displacing a base (substrate 28) in a filming apparatus (thin film deposition system 20) used for forming an angle-deposited film to accomplish the desired alignment (col.5, lines 9-22; Fig.2);
- conducting a vapor stream of a material for an inorganic alignment layer (silicon dioxide) displaced in the filming apparatus (thin film deposition system 20) so as to enter into the base (substrate 28) at an angle (evaporation angle) of 30 to 50 degree (col.5, lines 23-58; Fig.2);
- forming the inorganic alignment layer on the base so as to conduct a pre-tilt angle of liquid crystals to be about 0.2 to about 10 degree.

Although Lu does not explicitly disclose the evaporation angle is 40 to 60 degree

Art Unit: 2871

and the pre-tilt angle is 3 to 10 degree, the ranges as shown in Lu are close and overlap. In the case where the claimed ranges "overlap or lie inside range disclosed by the prior art" a prima facie case of obviousness exists. (MPEP 2144.05. I.)

Lu does not explicitly disclose that introducing oxygen gas into the filming apparatus at a prescribed gas pressure.

Shimada discloses a method of forming orientation film in which the gas feeding is designed to introduce oxygen as a desired gas (see col.6, lines 2-5; Fig.5), and adjust the gas pressure such as  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  torr, that is a prescribed gas pressure (see col.5, line 64 – col.6, line 2; Fig.5), and the ordinary skilled in the art would adjust it to a proper gas pressure according to the operation conditions such as  $6 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $3 \times 10^{-2}$  Pa. Shimada also indicates that such method easily control the thickness of the film (see col.6, line 54 – col.7, line 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to those skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the alignment layer forming method of Lu with the teachings of using oxygen gas as taught by Shimada so as to easily control the thickness of the film, since using vacuum evaporation and desired oxygen gas (see col.6, line 54 – col.7, line 8).

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2 and 3 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

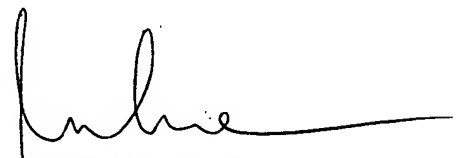
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Qi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2299. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2871

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mike Qi  
August 25, 2005



DUNG T. NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER